

OAKLAND~MAPLEVILLE FIRE DISTRICT OPERATING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes APRIL 23, 2014

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Oakland~Mapleville Fire District Operating Committee was called to order at 7:10 pm on April 23, 2014 in the district fire station at 46 Oakland School St. Oakland by Bob L'Esperance, Moderator.

Present: Peter Leone, Albert Lavigne, Richard Nolan, Patricia St.Pierre and Mike Cosetta; and Commissioners Ed Bertholic and Tom Demers; Chief Joe Bertholic and Clerk Anne Chretien.

Absent: Alice Lavigne and Commissioner Warren Steere.

A. Approval of Minutes

The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting were waived and accepted.

Motion to accept the minutes was made by Peter Leone and seconded by Mike Cosetta. Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

B. Commissioners Report

- The seals on the ends of the roof panels are missing on the front of the building and some on the other ends of the roof. These need to be replaced. Birds are causing the problem.
- The grass in the front of the station is green and in good condition. The lawn will be fertilized and lime put down.
- Painting projects in the station will be starting in the spring and painting of the siren and pole will need to be completed.
- Motion to accept the Commissioners Report was made by Mike Cosetta. Seconded by Patricia St.Pierre. Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

C. Chief's Report

- There were 40 runs. (See attached report).
- March 2014 runs averaged 4 personnel per call. This figure is up from last month's average.
- Rescue 1 – the circuit board burned up in the truck. The replacement for it has been ordered and will cost about \$1900. Aaron Doughty will provide the labor to install the board when it is received, which will save us money. Al Lavigne

asked the Chief if this incident would be covered by insurance and the answer was no because there was no damage to the vehicle.

- Motion to accept the Chief's Report by Patricia St.Pierre and seconded by Mike Cosetta. Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

D. Tax Assessors Report

- Street light at Barber Farm Road- an email has been sent to National Grid to remove the light because the residents requested it be removed. The wire to the street light has been cut.
- Motion to accept the Tax Assessors Report by Patricia St.Pierre and seconded by Peter Leone. Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

E. Tax Collectors Report

- Collections from 9/1/2013 to 08/28/2014 which includes current and prior year taxes, and interest and fees totaled \$299,034.23 as of April 22, 2014. Outstanding balance to be collected is \$51,236.82. See attached report.
- Reviewed was a list of 20 delinquent tax payers, down from 32, being considered for the Tax Sale. Of the 20 one property is to be paid by April 29th by a lending company.
- The list of properties for the Tax Sale will be sent to RI Tax Title, LLC to begin the process on April 29th.
- Motion to accept the Tax Collectors report was made by Peter Leone and seconded by Mike Cosetta.
- Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

F. Treasurers Report

- All bills are paid and up-to-date.
- The report was reviewed and there were no questions asked.
- Motion to accept the Treasurers report was made by Mike Cosetta and seconded by Albert Lavigne.
- Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

G. Old Business

- By-Laws committee did not meet in April.
- The Chief reported that 4" hose was on order from C & S. The company was waiting until it had more than one request from other departments to place the order.
- Rescue Truck committee will meet on Friday at 7pm.

- The LOSAP program was audited and Gail Johnson reported that the plan was in good shape.

H. New Business

- Moderator, Bob L'Esperance received a request from Town Planner, Tom Kravitz, of Burrillville that OMFD consider putting a playground on its property at Oakland School St and Victory Hwy. The playground was donated by people from Kansas City in the name of Tyler Seddon. If this were to take place it could impact the OMFD Annual Field Day in September. Also, concern was voiced regarding the liability for the District if someone was injured on the playground equipment.
Motion was made by Pete Leone to not accept the offer by the Town Planner due to the liability cost for the District.
Seconded by Mike Cosetta.
Unanimously voted "I" by all present
- Two members of the OM Fire Department were present at the meeting – Mike McGrane and Troy Phillips. They presented, in draft form, two programs for review to help with the retention of members of the volunteer department.
 - Duty Shifts
 - Call Pay and Stipends
(See attached reports for details)

There committee also included Mike Cosetta from the OMFD Operating Committee and have been meeting twice a month. The call volume has increased over the years and is now approaching 700 calls annually. The problem of lack of volunteers is not unique to OMFD stated M. McGrane, but nationwide. The goal is to keep volunteers interested in serving and increase the numbers for responders to incidents. If the programs are accepted and put in place, all necessary tracking for reporting purposes will be completed by the OM Fire Department using "I am responding" software.

Troy Phillips stated that during the Duty Shifts, duties or training videos will be assigned to the person so that their time is not idle. He also stated that there are not enough qualified members presently to fill all duty shift hours.

The retention part of the program is what has been worked on, but recruiting new volunteers is also being worked on.

Mike McGrane said that he will propose meeting town wide with other districts for the purpose of writing grants to benefit the departments.

- The Chief said that next weekend May 3 & 4th there will be a Recruitment and Retention seminar held by the RI Fire Chiefs Assoc. if any member of the OMFD Operating Committee was interested in attending to let him know.

The Chief thanked the OM Fire Dept committee for all the work that they have put into the proposal. Good job!

Pete Leone on behalf of the Operating Committee thanked them also and appreciated the work that they have done. He also requested if they could return next month to be able to answer any questions the Operating Committee may have after having read the proposals and understood what they consist of. They said they would return in May.

- The Chief announced that Pascoag Fire District has a new Fire Chief – Butch Carter. He also mentioned that Mark St. Pierre, HFD Chief, has been talking about the four district boards in town get together to discuss the possibility of merging districts.

- **Motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm was made by Mike Cosetta and seconded by Pete Leone.

Unanimously voted “I” by all present.

Minutes submitted by: Anne Chretien, Clerk